

Dr. Caspar also gives his patients cold spring water to drink, or if the patient prefers it, cold beer. He rejects entirely the use of warm drinks. He also administers cold water enemata, and considers them as particularly indicated when there is constipation, and when the movement of a fluid in the intestines can be felt on the application of the hand to the abdomen. It is then that this author orders one or two enemata each day, composed of equal parts of cold water and of vinegar, sometimes with the addition of a spoonful of kitchen salt. These enemata generally act very promptly, provided the patients, as is seen in old men, are not affected with a paralysis of the intestinal canal. Notwithstanding this, it must not be imagined that Dr. Caspar employs cold in all cases, and in all the periods of cholera. On the contrary, he modifies it according to the individual cases, and the forms which this disease presents. With this view he indicates three principal varieties of cholera—1st, mild cholera, or that which has been called cholérine. 2d, Asiatic *febrile* cholera, in opposition to that cholera in which there is a complete absence of pulse: but the author himself admits the inaccuracy of this definition. The treatment which he applies to this form is that which we have described previously. He joins to that an emetic, if the patient exhibit signs of gastric embarrassment, but only in that case. 3d, Cholera *sine pulsu* or cholera asphyxia, that which demands at the first onset the bold use of the affusions and cold daises.

By this treatment reaction is speedily induced. Then Dr. Caspar is accustomed to draw twelve or fourteen ounces of blood, or fewer if the symptoms of local congestion be less marked. The compresses of iced water are continued during this period only upon the head. He prescribes besides, in the greater number of cases, calomel in conjunction with rhubarb: from three to four grains of calomel, with four grains of rhubarb, every hour in the case of adults. Dr. Caspar has renounced completely the employment of stimulants, even in the typhoid stage, during which he continues the affusions of cold water and compresses to the head.

Although Dr. Caspar points out the method of treatment by cold as the most advantageous, he is far from thinking that it will effect a cure in the majority of cases; he admits that the greater number of cholera patients die whatever may be the treatment which is adopted. However, the following are the conclusions which he believes may be drawn from his observations upon the comparative use of cold and of other remedial methods in cholera.

1st. The treatment by cold is suited to the nature of this disease, (Dr. Caspar regards cholera as consisting in a paralysis of the cutaneous system,) or if that pathology is not admitted, to all its most marked phenomena.

2d. When applied with circumspection, more patients are cured by it than by any other method.

3d. It produces a surprising amelioration in the most severe forms, and in the most serious period of cholera, when no other medication has any effect.

4th. It more surely than any other method prevents the consecutive typhus.

5th. It suits itself more easily to the taste and wants of the patients than the stimulating method.

6th. In cases where death is inevitable it prolongs life as long as possible.

7th. This method is simple, costing very little, and easy of application.

Dr. Caspar has added to the exposition of his method, a great many cases which attest its success.

36. *Statistics of Cholera Morbus in London.*—According to the London bills of mortality, the number of burials for the year 1832 was 28,606, whilst those for 1831 amounted to 25,337, being an increase of 3,269 for the last over the preceding year. It further appears that the deaths from cholera amounted to only 3,200, showing a trifling increase in the burials of 1832, when all the cholera cases are deducted. The epidemic first assumed importance in London during the week commencing with March 6th, when there were twenty-one

reported burials; and its violence subsided with the week ending on the 8th of May, there being in the succeeding weekly report only three deaths arising from the disease. In this space of ten weeks the total number of burials was 6,598, 557 of which are stated to have arisen from cholera; while in the corresponding weeks of 1831, there were only 4,107 burials of those who died from all kinds of disorders. For a short time the cholera was nearly extinct; but in the week beginning July 3d, we find fifty-five deaths occurring from that complaint, which then assumed a severe character until the week ending October 30th, at which time we find only thirteen deaths happening in the interval. During this period of seventeen weeks, the total number of burials was 10,357; the number from cholera being 2,403. In the corresponding weeks of the preceding year the aggregate amount of interments was only 6,114; so that we plainly perceive the mortality from other diseases became more intense during the whole time that the malignant cholera was in action. It is a fact, moreover, which holds true in the detail, that the mortality from independent diseases was not lessened, even in those weeks when the cholera was especially fatal; but that, on the contrary, the deaths from other causes were mostly beyond the average, after the deaths from cholera have been deducted. This will be seen in a moment by reference to the following table.

| Weeks of the<br>Years 1831-2. | Deaths in 1832. |                 | Deaths in 1831<br>from all Diseases. |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
|                               | From Cholera.   | Other Diseases. |                                      |
| 27th.                         | 55              | 476             | 244                                  |
| 28th.                         | 108             | 496             | 352                                  |
| 29th.                         | 158             | 450             | 529                                  |
| 30th.                         | 380             | 588             | 350                                  |
| 31st.                         | 305             | 488             | 346                                  |
| 32d.                          | 127             | 534             | 592                                  |
| 33d.                          | 103             | 579             | 332                                  |
| 34th.                         | 116             | 428             | 382                                  |
| 35th.                         | 274             | 747             | 277                                  |
| 36th.                         | 157             | 267             | 464                                  |
| 37th.                         | 257             | 697             | 650                                  |
| 38th.                         | 154             | 514             | 269                                  |
| 39th.                         | 39              | 442             | 472                                  |
| 40th.                         | 73              | 548             | 253                                  |

37. *Comparative View of the Various Modes of Treatment adopted in Cholera, within the Jurisdiction of the City of London Board of Health, transmitted by Mr. F. DE GRAVE.*

|   | Cases. | Deaths. | Recoveries. | Deaths per<br>cent. | Recoveries<br>per cent. |
|---|--------|---------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Calomel and opium -                                   | 196    | 112     | 84          | 57.14               | 42.86                   |
| Opium - - - -   | 81     | 47      | 34          | 58.                 | 42.                     |
| Calomel - - - -                                       | 75     | 35      | 40          | 46.66               | 53.34                   |
| Stimulants - - - -                                    | 63     | 42      | 21          | 66.66               | 33.33                   |
| Combination of salts pro-<br>posed by Dr. Stevens     | 25     | 22      | 3           | 88.                 | 12.                     |
| Combination of salts used<br>at Greville st. hospital | 26     | 3       | 13          | 30.77               | 69.23                   |
| Venous injection - -                                  | 20     | 18      | 2           | 90.                 | 10.                     |
| Miscellaneous - - -                                   | 17     | 8       | 9           | 47.06               | 52.94                   |

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